



MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

DATE: October 21, 2010 Revised with comments 11-2-10

RE: Davis Library (13252)

ATTENDING: See Attached List

FROM: Greg Lukmire

REMARKS:

A presentation to explain the concept of a combined library and recreation center was held at the Davis Library. An invited list of key neighborhood associations and individuals attended. The meeting was hosted by Ken Hartman, Director, Bethesda-Chevy Chase Regional Services. He opened the meeting with introductions. Don Scheuerman, Section Chief, Division of Building Design and Construction, then explained the purpose of the meeting, followed by Greg Lukmire, AIA, who made a brief presentation of the concept of constructing a combined library/recreation center on the site of the Davis Library. Following is a list of the reactions of those in attendance:

1. The group thought the concept of a combined facility is a good concept. However, they raised concerns about:
 - a. The size of the development on a 3 acre site.
 - b. Traffic impact in the neighborhood.
 - c. Visual impact from the adjacent houses.
 - d. Teenagers roaming the neighborhood.
 - e. Trash left in yards.
 - f. Nighttime activity that will affect the neighborhood.
 - g. Loss of property values.
 - h. Site and building security.
 - i. Number of people attracted to the site.
 - j. Extended hours of operation.
 - k. Narrowness of streets/cut through traffic – problems increased with addition of community recreation center (CRC).
 - l. Parking in the neighborhood.
 - m. Safety issues re: crossing Democracy.
 - n. Insufficient land for the development.
 - o. Homeless camping on property.
 - p. Uses/programs and extended hours of operation beyond present hours and if some of the proposed CRC functions be moved to another site..
2. Of particular concern is the gymnasium and multipurpose room:
 - a. Several individuals questioned the need for a gymnasium due to the proximity of a YMCA.
 - b. There was a suggestion that MCPS be approached by the County to allow the use of the gym and fields at Walter Johnson by the County for Recreation Department purposes.
3. The group asked if the development could be made smaller.

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4. The following was requested:
 - a. Parking study.
 - b. Traffic study.
5. Ken explained, after questions from the group, that:
 - a. The recreation center project has been “on the books” for almost 20 years and a site has not been found. This site is located well and is available.
 - b. There is design money for both projects so design work can begin.
6. It was suggested by Ken Hartman/Don Scheuerman
 - a. Prepare “test fit” designs to study whether the community’s concerns can be mitigated.
 - b. Proceed into a concept design study and present to the community.
 1. The community complained that it appeared that the County is determined to proceed without listening to the community’s concerns.
7. The community asked for:
 - a. A site selection study identifying what sites were considered.
 - b. 3 options be considered:
 1. Expand/replace the library only (the original plan called for a 9,000 SF addition).
 2. A reduced size combination of library and recreation center (without at least the gym).
 3. The complete combined facility.

It was agreed that the County Department of Libraries and Department of Recreation and DGS will meet to discuss the next steps.

Submitted by:



Gregory S. Lukmire, AIA
President

Enclosures: Memo from J. Wilson
Memo from Ken Hartman

cc: J. Wilson
File 13252